

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ASPEN COMICS!

brian BUCCELLATO • pasquale GUALANO • john STARR • josh REED

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BLOCKADE  
ENTERTAINMENT

#2

10  
FOR  
10

COVER A

# ALL NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

# IT'S



2013



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COVER B

10  
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ASSISTANT  
A  
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John  
12/04



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Brian Buccellato



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# HONOR BOUND

PART 2 OF 5

BRIAN BUCCELLATO

*story*

PASQUALE QUALANO

*pencils*

MARK ROSLAN  
& CHAZ RIGGS

*digital inks*

JOHN STARR

*colors*

JOSH REED

*lettering*

*The story so far...*

Iris returned to Wuhan to reclaim some semblance of the honor and loyalty that came with her past life as an Executive Assistant, finding a position available to work for Maly Ang, a powerful businesswoman. The competition for the job came down to her and Snapdragon, a feisty--yet dangerous--adversary, as they defended Maly from her deadly rivals in a Tokyo night club. Yet, Iris decided to remove herself from the fight after the situation became far less honorable than Iris was comfortable with--proving to Maly her worth in the process...

*Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Foxhoven & Michael Turner*

Editors: VINCE HERNANDEZ, FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD, JOSH REED

Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

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ALL NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: IRIS™ Vol. 4 Issue 2

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**M**Y NAME IS IRIS. I AM PART OF AN ELITE SISTERHOOD OF HIGHLY TRAINED PERSONAL BODYGUARDS CALLED EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO I INTERVIEWED WITH MALY LIM, THE WOMAN BESIDE ME, IN HOPES OF FINDING AN EMPLOYER THAT I CAN FINALLY TRUST.

WHERE IS SHE, MALY?!!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT--

--DO NOT DISHONOR ME WITH LIES, OR I WILL HAVE MY MEN CUT YOU DOWN WHERE YOU STAND!

**KLICK**

**KLICK**

**KAH-KLICK**

AFTER AN UNORTHODOX INTERVIEW TURNED AMBUSH, I DISCOUNTED HER AS ANOTHER DUPlicitous AND POWER HUNGRY MOGUL. BUT MOMENTS AGO, SHE SOUGHT ME OUT AND MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR MY SERVICES.

MALY WAS RECENTLY SET UP BY HER MENTOR, HAN LI SHAO-- FOR REASONS THAT ARE PRESENTLY UNCLEAR TO ME. HOWEVER...

...SINCE SHAO AND HIS CADRE OF ARMED MERCENARIES HAVE JUST SURROUNDED US, I ASSUME WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.



SHAO IS ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE RICHEST AND MOST POWERFUL MEN IN THE WORLD. HIS REPUTATION DOESN'T JUST PRECEDE HIM, IT MAKES THE GROUND TREMBLE.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM SAYS THAT SHAO IS NOT SOMEONE YOU WANT AS AN ENEMY.

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM BE DAMNED.



I DON'T LIKE GUNS POINTED IN MY FACE!

IRIS, NO!





YOUR STANDING AMONG  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS IS  
WITHOUT PEER.

THEN YOU  
SHOULD HAVE NO  
PROBLEM INSTRUCTING  
THEM TO STAND DOWN,  
MISTER SHAO... UNLESS  
YOU THINK THEY CAN  
FIRE BEFORE I OPEN  
YOUR THROAT.




PLEASE,  
SHAO HAS A KNACK  
FOR CHEAP THEATRICALS...  
THIS STANDOFF ISN'T  
NECESSARY.

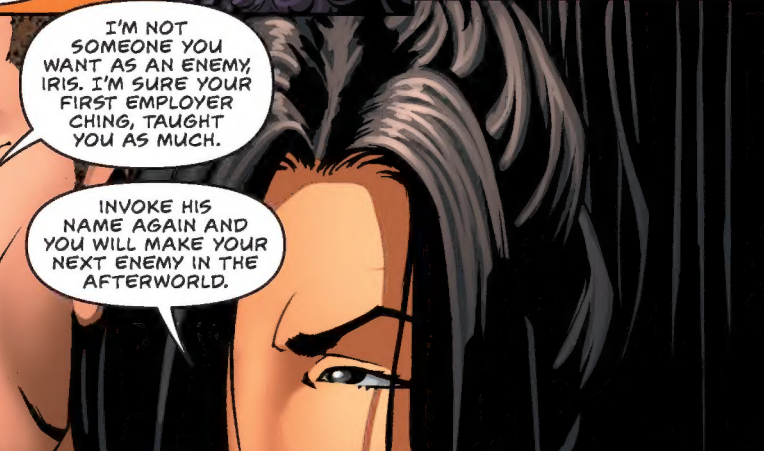


WATCH  
YOUR TONGUE,  
MALY!

WATCH  
YOURS WHEN YOU  
ADDRESS HER.



I'M NOT  
SOMEONE YOU  
WANT AS AN ENEMY,  
IRIS. I'M SURE YOUR  
FIRST EMPLOYER  
CHING, TAUGHT  
YOU AS MUCH.



VOKE HIS  
NAME AGAIN AND  
YOU WILL MAKE YOUR  
NEXT ENEMY IN THE  
AFTERWORLD.



THEN  
WE UNDERSTAND  
EACH OTHER.



STAND DOWN.





MALY... TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T KEPT THIS FROM ME ALL THESE YEARS.

AFTER ALL I HAVE DONE FOR YOU... ALL I HAVE GIVEN YOU.

WHAT CHOICE DID YOU LEAVE ME, HAN LI?



HONOR. YOU SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN HONOR! THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME FOR THE LIFE I GAVE YOU?

GAVE ME?! NO... THIS WAS PAYMENT FOR THE LIFE YOU WANTED TO TAKE.



PAYMENT YOU NEVER MADE!

WHERE IS SHE?! WHERE IS MY DAUGHTER?!



I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME. OR I WOULD BE HONOR-BOUND TO TELL YOU.



LIES! I KNOW SHE IS SOMEWHERE IN THERE... IN YOUR SCHOOL!



SHE MAY BE... BUT FOR HER OWN SAFETY, I DO NOT KNOW WHO SHE IS.

THEN I WILL GO IN THERE AND FIND HER!





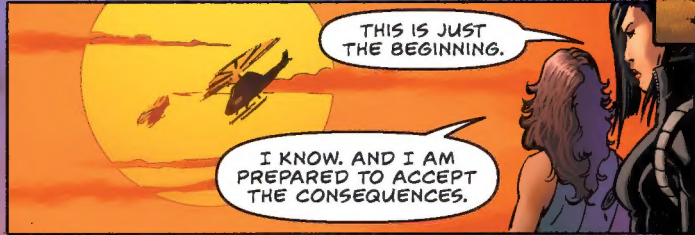
YOU ARE WELCOME TO TRY.

BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T THINK THEY ARE GOING TO LET YOU FLY OUT OF HERE WITH ONE OF THEIR SISTERS.

YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR PLACE, MALY.



REST ASSURED THAT I WILL REFRESH YOUR MEMORY.



THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

I KNOW. AND I AM PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES.

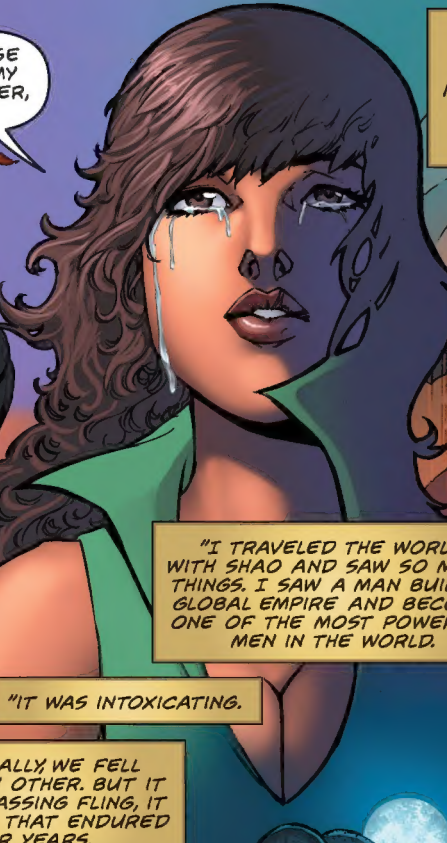


WHY?






BECAUSE SHE'S MY DAUGHTER, TOO.



"MY HISTORY WITH HAN LI SHAO GOES BACK TWENTY YEARS. BORN FROM NOBILITY, HE WAS A YOUNG AND FEARLESS BUSINESSMAN WHO CARRIED THE AURA OF GREATNESS.



"I BEGAN WORKING FOR HIM RIGHT OUT OF SCHOOL. A YOUNG, WIDE-EYED TEEN WITH SO MUCH TO LEARN IN LIFE.


"I TRAVELED THE WORLD WITH SHAO AND SAW SO MANY THINGS. I SAW A MAN BUILD A GLOBAL EMPIRE AND BECOME ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN THE WORLD.

"IT WAS INTOXICATING.

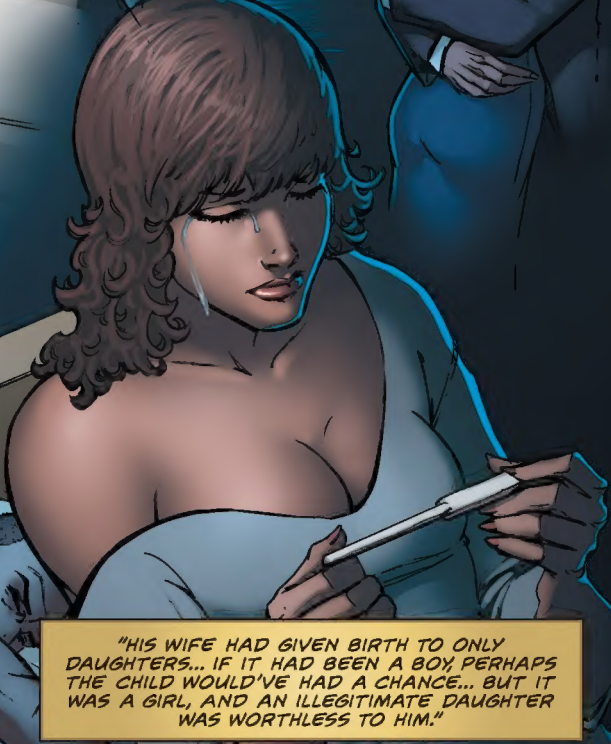
"NATURALLY, WE FELL FOR EACH OTHER. BUT IT WAS NO PASSING FLING, IT WAS LOVE THAT ENDURED FOR YEARS.

"BUT BECAUSE OF HIS NOBILITY AND MY COMMON LINEAGE, MARRIAGE WAS NOT POSSIBLE.

"OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS A TICKING CLOCK. AND EVEN AFTER HE MARRIED A WOMAN OF HIS PEDIGREE, WE HELD ON.

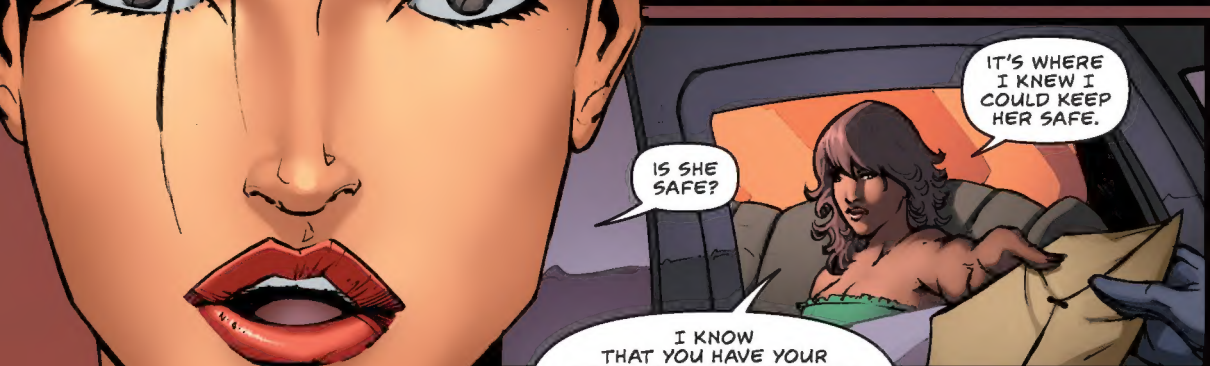
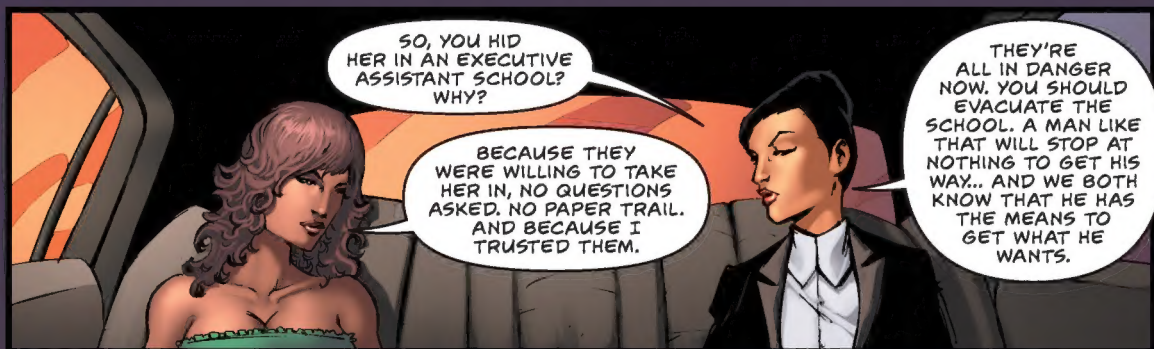


"THE CLOCK STRUCK MIDNIGHT ON THE DAY I DISCOVERED I WAS PREGNANT.



"HIS WIFE HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO ONLY DAUGHTERS... IF IT HAD BEEN A BOY, PERHAPS THE CHILD WOULD'VE HAD A CHANCE... BUT IT WAS A GIRL, AND AN ILLEGITIMATE DAUGHTER WAS WORTHLESS TO HIM."







IRIS' WATERFRONT CONDO.

I'M SURPRISED YOU CALLED.

THERE'S A CLEAN GLASS ON THE TABLE, AGENT.

THIS IS ABOUT MALY LIM, ISN'T IT? DID YOU ACCEPT THE JOB?

DOUBLE-DEALING IS MY BUSINESS, SO I MAY NOT BE THE ONE TO ASK... BUT I DON'T KNOW IF SUCH A JOB EXISTS, IRIS. TRUST? YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT EVERYONE HAS A PRICE.

NOT YET.

WHICH MEANS THERE ARE MAJOR RED FLAGS.

SO WHY ARE YOU EVEN DEBATING THIS? YOU CAN HAVE VIRTUALLY ANY ASSISTANT JOB YOU WANT.

THE GIRL. IF I DO NOTHING, THEN SHE WILL DIE.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A JOB OR A CAUSE?

I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE I CAN BELIEVE IN. OR AT LEAST SOME THING. IS THAT TOO MUCH TO HOPE FOR?

I DON'T. AND IF THIS IS TRUE FOR ME, THEN I SHOULDN'T EXPECT LESS.

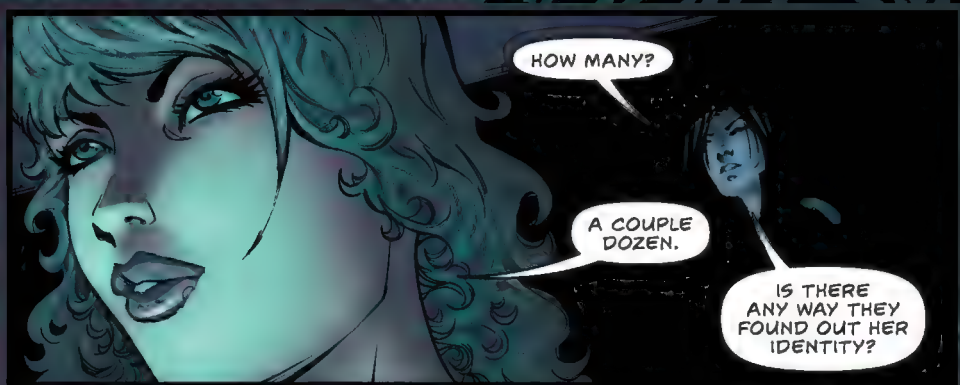
IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE MALY ISN'T THAT PERSON. BUT IF YOU'RE WILLING TO SETTLE FOR A CAUSE, CONSIDER THIS-- THAT GIRL IS YOU, FIFTEEN YEARS AGO... AND HER LIFE IS IN DANGER.





THE SHAO-ANG  
GREEN TOWER.

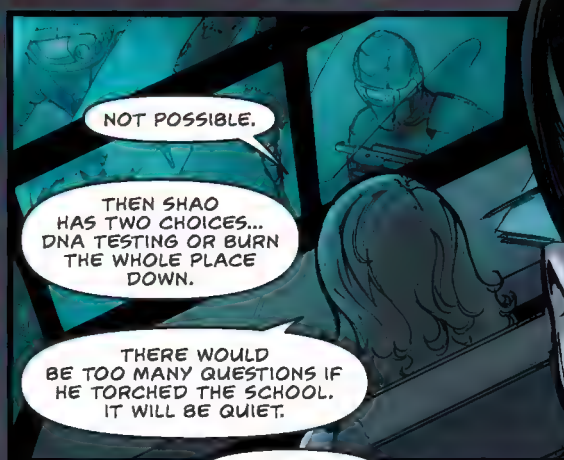
THEY'RE  
ALREADY ON  
THEIR WAY.



HOW MANY?

A COUPLE  
DOZEN.

IS THERE  
ANY WAY THEY  
FOUND OUT HER  
IDENTITY?

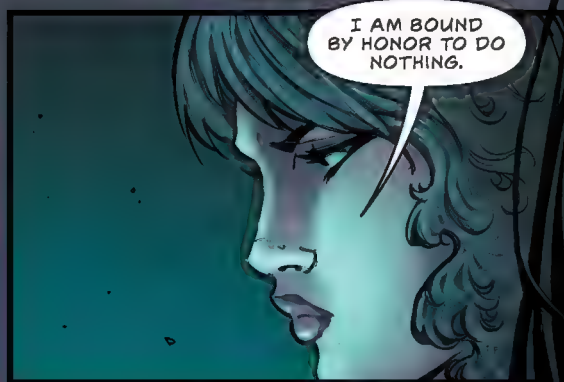


NOT POSSIBLE.

THEN SHAO  
HAS TWO CHOICES...  
DNA TESTING OR BURN  
THE WHOLE PLACE  
DOWN.

THERE WOULD  
BE TOO MANY QUESTIONS IF  
HE TORCHED THE SCHOOL.  
IT WILL BE QUIET.

AND WHAT  
ARE YOU GOING  
TO DO?



I AM BOUND  
BY HONOR TO DO  
NOTHING.





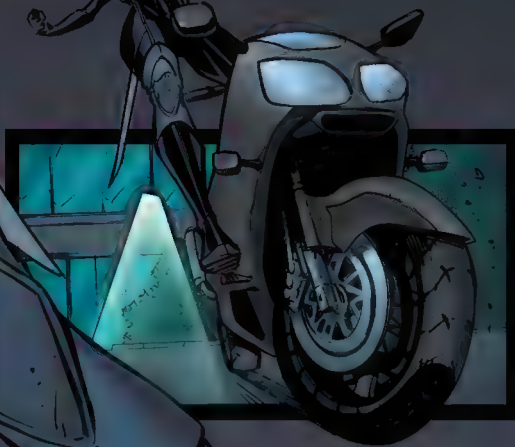
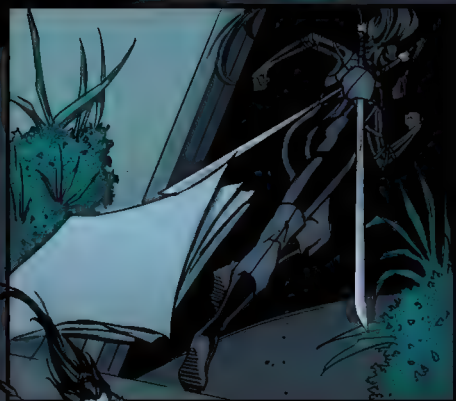
BUT I  
HAVE NO SUCH  
RESTRICTIONS. THAT'S  
WHAT YOU WERE  
COUNTING ON.

I HOPED.

IF YOU DON'T  
KNOW HER NAME, HOW  
AM I SUPPOSED TO  
FIND HER?

ALL I HAVE  
ARE PICTURES...  
THIS ONE IS A FEW  
YEARS OLD.

I'LL  
GET HER TO  
SAFETY.



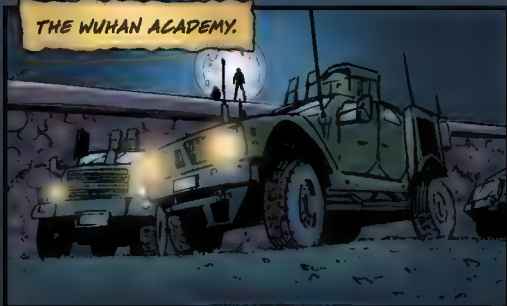


MALY PLANNED TO PLAY ON  
MY SYMPATHIES ALL ALONG.  
SHE ASSUMED I WOULD SEE  
MYSELF IN THAT GIRL...

SHE ASSUMED THAT I WOULD  
TAKE UP HER CAUSE TO SAVE AN  
INNOCENT YOUNG GIRL...



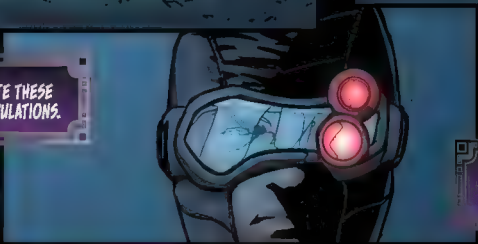
THE WUHAN ACADEMY.



SHE WAS RIGHT.



I HATE THESE  
MANIPULATIONS.



I WILL DEAL WITH MALY'S  
DECEIT LATER...

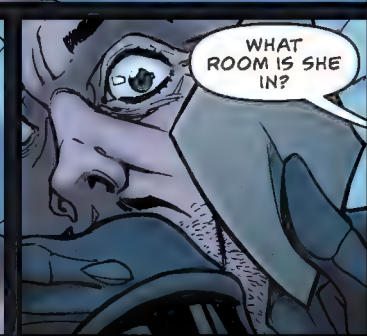
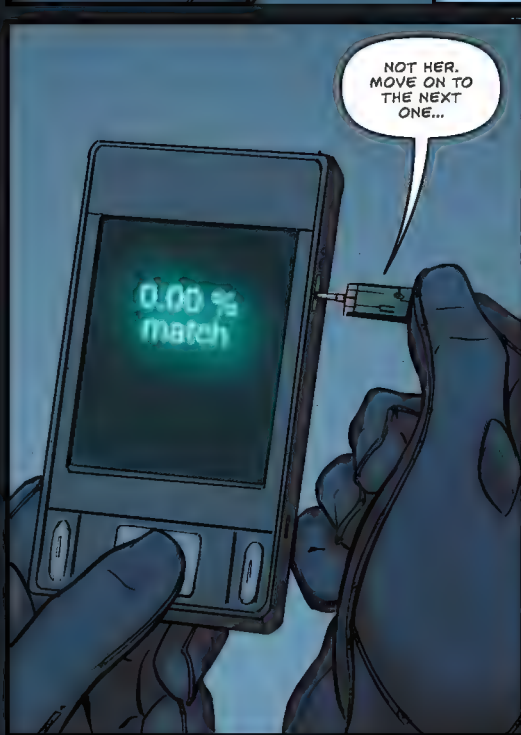




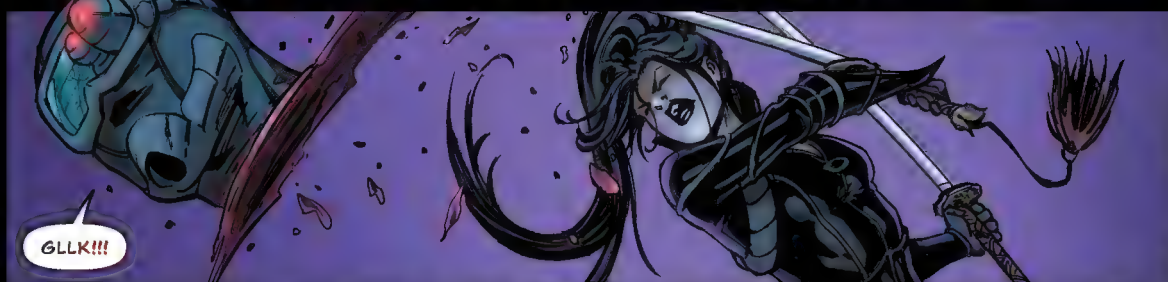
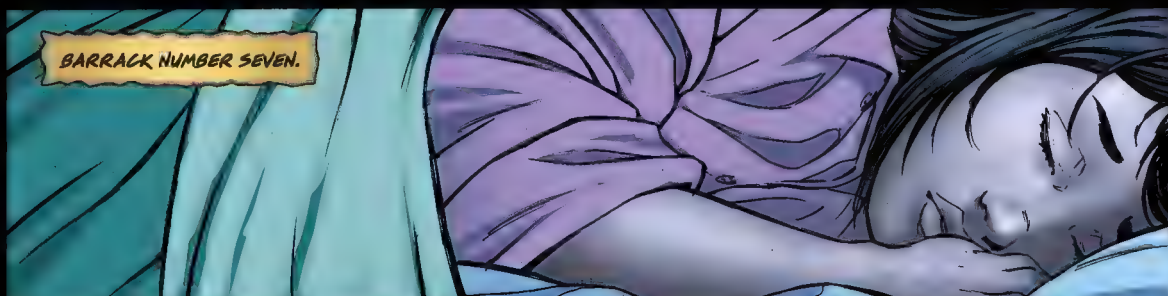
BUSINESS FIRST.







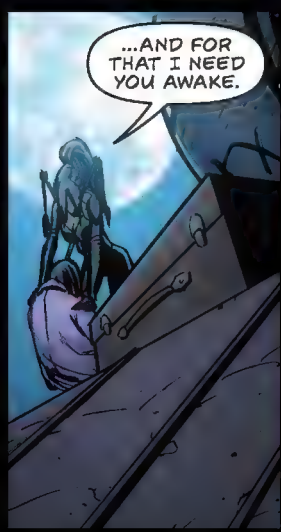










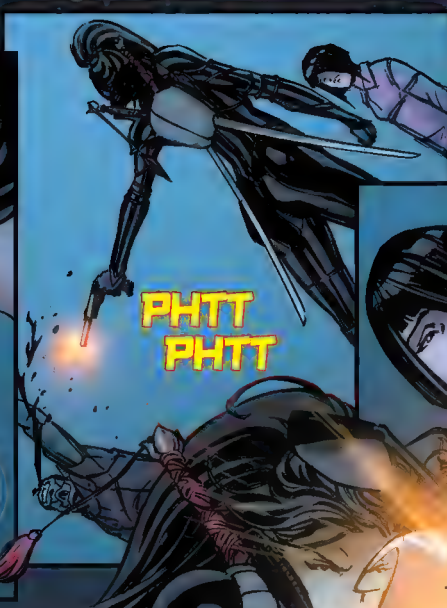






I...  
I KNOW YOU...  
YOU'RE--

--LISTEN  
TO ME. THERE  
ARE MEN HERE  
TO KILL YOU. WE  
NEED TO--



PHTT  
PHTT



WE  
NEED TO  
GO!

WHY ME?!

LATER.  
RIGHT NOW  
I NEED YOU  
TO...

...HOLD ON!!!







TING  
TING  
TING

TING  
TING  
TING

KAH-THUNK

POP  
POP  
POP

THAT WAS  
CLOSE!

"I'M SORRY, MISTER  
SHAO. THERE IS NO  
EXCUSE FOR THEIR  
FAILURE..."



THE HOME OF  
HAN LI SHAO.

THEY WERE A  
TOP-FLIGHT TEAM OF  
MY CHOOSING. I ACCEPT  
FULL RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR THIS.

YOUR MISTAKE  
WAS NOT ACCOUNTING  
FOR EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
IRIS. HER PROWESS DWARFS  
EVEN HER LEGENDARY  
REPUTATION.

WE'VE  
ALREADY PUT A  
BOUNTY ON HER AS  
YOU REQUESTED.  
TEN MILLION  
DOLLARS.

WHEN SHE  
IS FOUND, THEY  
WILL FIND YOUR  
DAUGHTER.

EXCUSE  
ME, SIR. I HAVE YOUR  
GUEST...

...EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANT:  
**SNAPDRAGON.**

MISTER SHAO,  
I'LL TAKE YOUR  
TEN MILLION.

TO BE  
CONTINUED...  
ALL NEW EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANT: IRIS #3



# ALL NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**BLOCKADE**  
ENTERTAINMENT



**10  
FOR  
10**

**DON'T MISS  
THE NEXT  
THRILLING  
ISSUE!**

**#3**

**WRITTEN BY:  
BRIAN BUCCELLATO**

(THE FLASH, BLACK BAT, FOSTER)

**PENCILS BY:  
PASQUALE QUALANO**

(IDOLIZED, SOULFIRE: GRACE)

**COLORS BY:  
JOHN STARR**

(LEGEND OF THE SHADOW CLAN, FATHOM, SOULFIRE)

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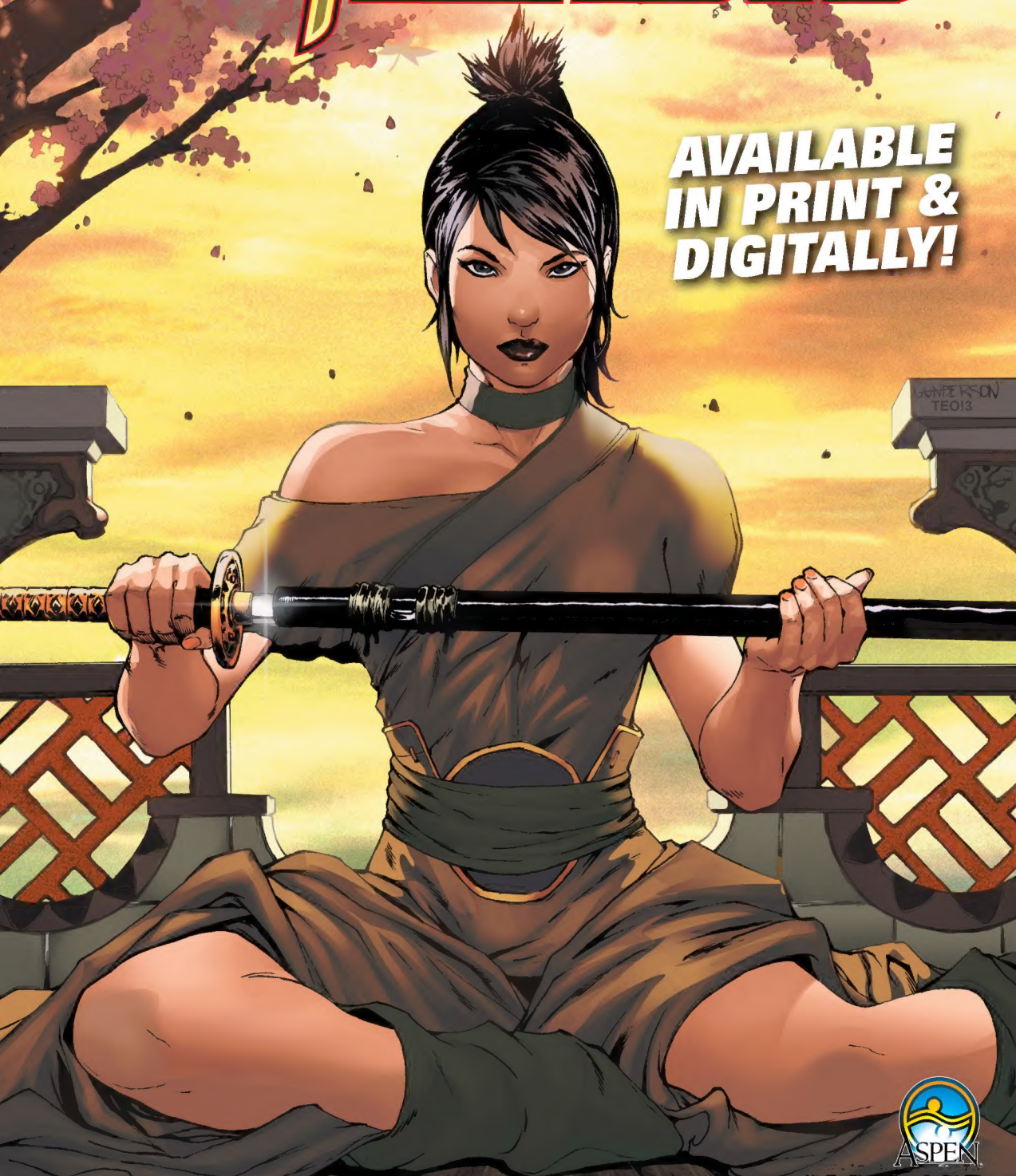
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From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Fathom: David Wohl (Witchblade, Aphrodite IX) and Michael Turner (Fathom, Soulfire)

# EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS

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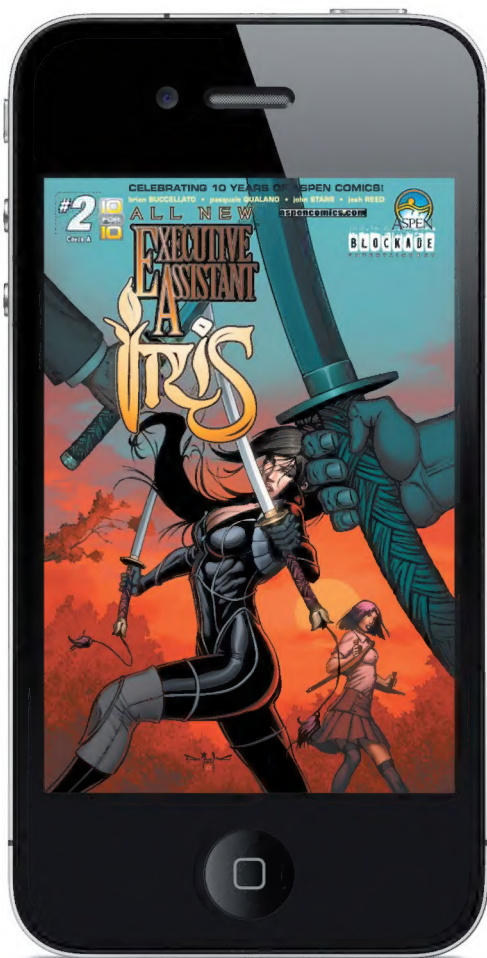


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